

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 SAM-01 MCT-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /095 W

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P R 081512Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 418

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF

SUBJECT: NOV. 7-8 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT NAJI JAMIL MISSION
TO EGYPT

1. MEDIA STESSED VISIT BY NAJI JAMIL TO CAIRO AND EFFORTS TO
DEPLOY ADF. MEDIA FOCUSED ON JAMIL'S FUNCTION AS MEMBER OF
BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND IN REPORTS BOTH DAYS. HE SENT
TO CAIRO TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM PRES. ASAD TO PRES. SADAT
AND WILL RETURN TO DAMASCUS, ACCORDING TO SANA, WITH MESSAGE
FROM SADAT. MEDIA NOTED ASAD'S MESSAGE DEALT WITH ISSUES
TWO PRESIDENTS JOINTLY STUDYING. SANA OBSERVED JAMIL
RECEIVED BY EGYPTIAN VICE-PRES. MUBARAK.

2. SYRO-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION CONTINUED TO BE HIGHLIGHTED
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IN ADDITIONAL REPORTS BY LOCAL MEDIA. INFORMATION MIN AHMAD

RECEIVED AMIN YUSRI, EGYPTIAN CHARGE, AND EXPRESSED SYRIA'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSOLIDATE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN INFORMATION FIELD. FOLLOWING MEETING CHARGE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM OUTLINED BY INFOMIN. A AHMAD WAS ALSO QUOTED IN CAIRO'S AL-AKHBAR, ACCORDING TO DAMASCUS PRESS, AS PRAISING THE MEETING BETWEEN ASAD AND SADAT FOR ENHANCING ARAB SOLIDARITY.

3. PRES. SARKIS DELIVERED BROADCAST TO LEBANESE PEOPLE NOV. 7 WHICH ACCORDED BANNER HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS: "WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF BLOOD AND WE MUST BUILD NEW LEBANON. I CALL ON YOU TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARAB FORCES TO RESTORE SECURITY AND STABILITY. RIYADH AND CAIRO RESOLUTIONS TAKEN FOR BENEFIT FOR LEBANON, PALESTINE AND ARAB SOLIDARITY." PRESS NOTED DETAILS OF SARKIS' SPEECH AND ADDED THAT HE RECEIVED NOV. 7 SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE LT. GEN. ALI SHAIR TO DISCUSS ISSUE OF OBTAINING SUPPORT FROM ALL FACTIONS IN LEBANON TO CONSOLIDATE SECURITY. NOV. 7 PRESS REFLECTED OPTIMISM THAT LEBANESE CRISIS ON TRACK TOWARD REAL SETTLEMENT IN VIEW OF SUPPORT FOR SARKIS BY PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO RIYADH AND CAIRO RESES. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CURFEW MAY ACCOMPANY DEPLOYMENT OF ADF. ADF COMMANDER, COL HAJJ, NOTED THAT FIRST TASK OF ADF IS CONSOLIDATION OF CEASEFIRE. PRESS CITED STATEMENT BY DR. NOFAL THAT COL. HAJJ WILL OFFICIALLY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADF NOV. 11.

4. PRESS REFERRED TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAMOUNIST SPOKESMAN

THAT NLP MILITIA HAS RECEIVED ORDER TO LAY ASIDE WEAPONS IN PARADES AND CEASE WEARING MILITARY UNIFORMS IN BEIRUT EFFECTIVE NOV. 8.

5. MEDIA REPORTED RANDOM ARTILLERY SHELLING AND CLASHES IN BEIRUT NOV. 6. MORE THAN FORTY WOUNDED REPORTEDLY TAKEN TO HOSPITALS.

6. PRES. ASAD NOV 6 RECEIVED FORMER LEBANESE PRIMINS ABDULLAH YAFI AND TAQI AL-DIN SOLH AND REVIEWED WITH THEM MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO APPLY SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS.

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7. SANA RELEASE REPORTED SAIQA LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSIN RECEIVED FRENCH AMBASSADOR NOV. 6 TO DISCUSS LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS AND MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. MUHSIN, ACCORDING TO SANA, PRESENTED VIEWPOINT OF SAIQA TOWARD HISTORY OF LEBANESE CRISIS WHILE FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED "COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS

VIEWPOINT AND SYRIA'S POSITION IN LEBANON."

8. PRES. ASAD RECEIVED NOV. 7 AL SEC GEN RIYAD TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO SUMMIT RESES. PRIOR TO MEETING RIYAD PAID CALL ON FONMIN KHADDAM.

9. PRESS CITED STATEMENT BY KING HUSSEIN PRAISING SYRO-JORDANIAN COORDINATION AND REAFFIRMING JORDANIAN SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE IN LEBANON.

10. NOV. 7 PRESS REPORTED KHADDAM HAD RECEIVED LIBYAN AMBASSADOR UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM TRIPOLI. TWO OFFICIALS REACHED AGREEMENT TO RESUME AIR FLIGHTS BETWEEN SYRIAN AND LIBYA. FOLLOWING DAY AL-BAATH ADVERTISEMENT REPORTED "SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE REOPENING OF ITS LINE TO TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI EFFECTIVE NOV. 7."

11. COMMENT: MEDIA REPORTING LAST TWO DAYS HAS HIGHLIGHTED TO SYRIAN PUBLIC STRESS LAID BY SARG UPON EFFORTS TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY UNDERCUT DURING LEBANESE CRISIS. TOP LEVEL SYRO-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS HAVE ONCE AGAIN RESUMED. LOCAL EGYPTIAN CHARGE IN NEWS AND SYRO INFOMIN BEING QUOTED FAVORABLY IN CAIRO PRESS. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR HAS RETURNED AND SYRIA AND LIBYA HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO BEGIN SCHEDULING IMMEDIATELY AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. CRITICISM OF IRAQ ABSENT, RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT SARB BELIEVES THERE MAY BE OPPORTUNITY AT HAND TO RESTORE SOME MEASURE OF NORMALITY TO RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. SYRIAN MEDIA APPARENTLY COULD NOT RESIST DESCRIBING JAMIL AS BAATHIST FIGURE IN RELATION TO HIS VISIT TO EGYPT.
PELLETREAU

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